

HOUSE No. 1501

By Mr. Koutoujian of Waltham, petition of Peter J. Koutoujian relative to specialty care units in nursing homes for the care of Alzheimer's patients. Elder Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO SPECIALTY CARE UNITS IN NURSING HOMES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 72 of chapter 111 of the General Laws, as
2 appearing in the 2002 Official Edition, is hereby amended by
3 inserting after the word "retarded", in lines 3, 8, 20, 25, 27, 37,
4 and 41, the following words:— in specialty care units for
5 Alzheimer's patients.

1 SECTION 2. Said section 72 of said chapter 111, as so
2 appearing, is hereby further amended by inserting after the third
3 paragraph the following paragraph:—

4 For purposes of this section, the following words shall have the
5 following meanings:—

6 "Specialty Care Unit", facility to maximize Alzheimer resi-
7 dent's functional, personal, social and spiritual potential at all
8 points in the course of their disease; to treat and avoid the symp-
9 toms associated with Alzheimer's disease and related forms of
10 dementia; to provide a safe physical environment that contains
11 features that help to direct the residents thinking automatically
12 and promote the feeling of mastery over the environment; to pro-
13 vide a high quality of medical care; and to support and educate
14 concerned family members."

15 Chapter 111 of the General Laws is hereby amended by
16 amending the following section:— Section 72

17 Inserting after line 3 "The department shall classify convales-
18 cent and nursing homes, infirmaries maintained in towns, rest

19 homes, charitable homes for the aged, intermediate care facilities
20 for the mentally retarded”, the following, “and specialty care units
21 for Alzheimer’s patients shall, after a public hearing, promulgate
22 rules and regulations citing minimum requirements for a specialty
23 care unit designation.”